



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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September 21, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Guard's 1158th Transportation Company ordered to active duty

A Wisconsin Army National Guard transportation unit that was mobilized briefly last year received another mobilization order for active duty service. The 1158th Transportation Company was ordered to active duty for up to 18 months beginning Oct. 21. The unit's soldiers, who had been on alert for another possible mobilization since early May, began receiving notifications of the new mobilization orders Monday evening [Sept. 20].

The unit has an authorized strength of about 300 soldiers, including 35 members assigned to the company headquarters in Tomah, and about 130 soldiers in each of two detachments in Beloit and Black River Falls. The transportation company operates a fleet of 96 Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs), whose mission is to transport a variety of heavy combat vehicles weighing up to 70 tons. The unit is expected to deploy overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom after completing mobilization processing and additional training at Fort McCoy.

The 1158th was ordered to active duty March 15, 2003. Following three months of post mobilization processing and training at Fort McCoy, about half the unit was released from active duty, but 60 soldiers were sent to Fort Irwin, Calif., and 80 others went to Fort Knox, Ky. The soldiers who served at Fort Knox returned home in December 2003, and the Fort Irwin mission was completed in March.

The mobilization also affects about 25 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers from other units who were ordered to active duty to fill vacancies in the 1158th Transportation Company. The unit had vacancies because some of the soldiers who previously served on active duty would have exceeded the 24-month active duty limit established by law. About 100 of the unit's soldiers volunteered to exceed the 24-month limit and will mobilize with the unit for a second time.

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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: There will not be any opportunities to cover this upcoming mobilization at the unit's armories in Tomah, Beloit and Black River Falls at this time.

The mobilization date in late October is more than one month away and most soldiers are not expected to be present at any of the unit armories until the unit's next weekend drill in October or until shortly before they report on active duty Oct. 21. Send-offs will be held before the unit moves to Fort McCoy.

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